

# PRESS QUERY

COMPANY (OpUnit or Corporate): MCI

SUBJECT: Monsanto/IEPA Sampling Agreement

REPORTER & MEDIA: Mike Blackwell, Belleville News Democrat

TIME & DATE: September 30, 1980

## QUESTION & RESPONSE:

- Q. I UNDERSTAND YOU AND THE IEPA HAVE AGREED TO A JOINT PROGRAM FOR THE DEAD CREEK AREA.
- A. Yes. We have agreed to a joint sampling and analysis program.
- Q. IEPA SAID MONSANTO REQUESTED THE PROGRAM?
- A. Monsanto offered its assistance to IEPA regarding sampling of Dead Creek. As an industrial citizen of the area we are as concerned about the situation as the Illinois officials and residents are. We hope that our assistance to and cooperation with the IEPA will help resolve the situation.
- Q. IT SOUNDS LIKE THIS IS A "GOODWILL GESTURE?"
- A. Our effort is sincere. We are concerned about the situation there. It reflects badly on, not only Monsanto, but all industry. And we are concerned as a lot of people are and want to resolve the situation. After all, it is not as if Monsanto's offer of assistance is unique to Illinois and the Dead Creek. I'm sure you remember a few weeks ago our offer of assistance to Gov. Teasdale at Ellisville.
- Q. YOU'VE TAKEN SAMPLES ALREADY. WHAT IS THE STATUS?
- A. We have taken samples and are awaiting the results.
- Q. WHY WOULD MONSANTO REQUEST THIS PROGRAM WITH IEPA? IS IT BECAUSE YOU QUESTION THEIR RESULTS?
- A. Monsanto offered assistance to IEPA. As you probably know, these are sophisticated tests and we have the laboratories and equipment to help IEPA.
- Q. WHERE WILL MONSANTO'S SAMPLES BE TAKEN? I UNDERSTAND TO YOUR QUEENY PLANT.
- A. The samples will be tested at our Central Research Laboratory at the World Headquarters in Creve Coeur.
- Q. WHEN WILL THE SAMPLES BE READY?
- A. I can't give you a definite date but, it should take between two and three weeks.

(Reporter's tone of voice during the interview suggested a cynical view toward "Monsanto's goodwill gesture" and the implication that Monsanto didn't trust IEPA to handle the sampling properly.)

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## SOURCE OF ANSWER

File/W. B. Papageorge

## HANDLED BY:

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